

The LEAFLET



What's Inside

Child Passenger Safety
Law Update..... Page 3

Lake Forest
"9th Safest City" Page 4

Sports Park Clearing
and GrubbingPage 5

**Check inside for the
Spring 12 Leisure Times**



Alton Parkway Project Update



Recently placed asphalt pavement and bike lane.

The Alton Parkway project is moving right along, with the City's portion of the project from Commercentre Drive to Towne Centre Drive scheduled to be completed by the end of January while the County's portion remains on track to be completed in April 2012. Alton Parkway, including the City's portion, cannot be opened for use until the County's portion is completed.

The County's portion of the project, from Irvine Boulevard to Commercentre Drive, is currently installing wet (water and sewer) and dry utilities (gas, electric, cable, telecom), and drainage facilities. Over the next three months, the contractor will perform final grading for the roadway; construct concrete curbs, gutters, and sidewalks; install the signal equipment at Commercentre/ Alton; and lay the rock base and asphalt pavement for the roadway. Watch for more details on the grand opening celebration in the next edition of the Leaflet and on our City website!

Check out photos from Lake Forest's 20th Anniversary Reception ... Page 2

CITY MANAGER'S

Message

As we welcome another new year, the City will face new challenges and opportunities. You may remember that in 2011 the fate of redevelopment agencies throughout the state was in jeopardy. Last year, much to our disappointment, the State ad-

opted legislation abolishing agencies so they could shift local property tax revenues to fund state programs. The legislation was challenged, but ultimately upheld by the State Supreme Court. We are currently analyzing the decision to determine the next steps for our community as the Lake Forest Redevelopment Agency ceases operation. We are hopeful, however, that new initiatives may modify portions of the law.

The State has stripped Lake Forest of a program that kept local tax dollars local and could have been used to further benefit the community. The legacy of the Lake Forest Redevelopment Agency can be seen throughout the Redevelopment project area, which extends along El Toro Road from the I-5 freeway to Trabuco Road. Its major achievement was the dramatic transformation of the El Toro Road corridor in to The Arbor on El Toro Road. The Redevelopment Agency has been an important tool in revitalizing the project area and helping the City complete important roadway projects. Earlier this year, the Lake Forest Redevelopment Agency contributed over \$3 million to fund construction of three streetscape and traffic calming projects that are currently underway – Jeronimo Road, Rockfield Boulevard, and El Toro Road. Unfortunately, these may likely be the last projects assisted by the Agency.

In addition to benefiting Lake Forest, successful Agency projects have generated property taxes that benefit other community agencies. Agency projects have had a role in increasing local property values, resulting in increased revenues for local agencies. Over the past five years, the Lake Forest Redevelopment Agency generated \$5 million for the Saddleback Valley Unified School District and \$970,870 for the South Coast Community College District. These funds were used by the districts to pay for operations and facility improvements.

Despite the loss of a significant economic tool, the City continues to remain fiscally sound. We will continue to pursue worthy projects to maintain the high quality of life in Lake Forest that make it an ideal location to live, work and play. The City is proud of the achievements of the Lake Forest Redevelopment Agency and the opportunities and improvements it provided to the community. For more information, visit www.lakeforestca.gov/redevelopment.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Dunek

Robert C. Dunek,
City Manager

Lake Forest Celebrates 20 Years of Cityhood

The City celebrated 20 years of cityhood on December 20 with a reception at City Hall. Attendees enjoyed a visit from Nectar, the City mascot, as well as a rendition of the City song.



Upcoming City Council Meeting Dates

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month starting at 7:00 p.m.

- Tuesday, January 17
- Tuesday, February 7
- Tuesday, February 21
- Tuesday, March 6

New!

California Child Passenger Safety Law Updated for 2012

Effective January 1, 2012, all children under age 8 must be properly buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.

California's previous Child Passenger Safety Law allowed for children that had reached the age of six or weighed sixty pounds to transition out of car seats/booster seats and into the car's regular seat and seat-belt. This law has been updated, and effective January 1, 2012, all children under age 8 must be properly buckled into a car seat or booster seat in the back seat. The penalties for disobeying the law are steep – for each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than \$475 and get a point on their driving records.



Children age 8 and older must still pass the following 5-step test before transitioning out of a car seat/booster seat.

1. Can the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend naturally over the seat cushion edge?
3. Does the lap belt cross the top of the hips/thighs, not the tummy?
4. Is the shoulder belt centered on the shoulder and chest?
5. Can the child stay seated in this position the whole trip?

If you cannot answer "yes" to all 5 questions above, your child must remain in a booster seat until the seat belt alone fits properly. Your child's weight is not a factor in determining proper fit.

Please contact Community Services Officer Aubrey Dietrich at 461-3543 for more information or to schedule a car seat installation appointment.



Lake Forest Recognized as OC's Best Family Neighborhood for Mid-Size Cities

In their 7th annual survey of Orange County's best family neighborhoods, *ParentingOC* recognized Lake Forest as one of the best places to call home in Orange County, and the best family neighborhood for mid-size cities. The factors considered included population, quality of schools, crime rates, and access to parks, pools and kid-friendly enrichment opportunities. This is the third year Lake Forest has been recognized as one of the best family-friendly cities.

Read the full story online at <http://www.parentingoc.com/magazine.html>.

Lake Forest “9th Safest City”

CQ Press Releases City Crime Rankings

The City of Lake Forest is the 9th lowest crime rate ranking city in America for cities with a population between 75,000 and 99,999, and the 12th lowest crime rate ranking city overall, according to recent CQ Press City Crime Rankings. The survey compares FBI crime statistics among American cities with populations over 75,000. The crime rate rankings of the cities are calculated using six crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. The rankings include all cities of at least 75,000 residents that reported crime data to the FBI in the categories noted for calendar year 2010.



Chief of Police Services Lieutenant Pat Higa credits the dedicated Police Services personnel, as well as the support of the community and the City Council, for the low crime rate in Lake Forest. Lt. Higa reminds residents “A majority of the crimes committed in Lake Forest are preventable crimes of opportunity. Reduce your exposure by making sure doors to homes and cars are locked and that valu-

able items are not left in plain sight.” Police services are provided by the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, with 55.4 fulltime sworn officers and professional staff assigned to Lake Forest.

CQ Press is a Washington D.C. independent publishing and research group. To view the entire City Rankings list, visit http://os.cqpress.com/city-crime/2011/City_Lo-Hi_2011.pdf.

Fair Housing

An impediment to fair housing opportunity is any policy or practice that denies or adversely affects the provision of housing to a person in any protected class. Examples of a protected class include minorities, elderly, and disabled persons. As a recipient of annual Federal Community Development Block Grant funds, the City of Lake Forest is committed to furthering fair housing practices in the community and cooperates with the Fair Housing Council of Orange County to eliminate discriminatory practices county-wide. Fair Housing opportunity is the law. If you or someone you know has a fair housing question or issue that needs to be addressed, please call the City’s Housing Manager at 461-3471.



Capital Improvement Projects Update: Sports Park Clearing and Grubbing

If you've driven by the intersection of Portola Parkway and El Toro Road recently, you've most likely seen a flurry of activity at the future site of the Lake Forest Sports Park and Recreation Center. Clearing vegetation from the land and grubbing (removing roots remaining in the soil) activities are moving forward. At the same time, salvaging and harvesting of cactus scrub vegetation is well underway for the extensive restoration project overseen by the Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC).



Looking for a Pet? Visit Lake Forest Pet of the Week!

Visit the City's website to meet the Lake Forest "Pet of the Week!" The "Pet of the Week" is a joint effort between the City and OC Animal Care to find a forever home for adoptable Lake Forest animals. A new pet is featured each week, along with an update on the adoption status of the previous Pet of the Week.

Last year there were over 11,000 successful adoptions of dogs, cats and other animals from OC Animal Care. Visit www.ocpetinfo.com for more available animals that are in need of warm and loving homes. For more information, contact OC Animal Care at 249-5160 or visit them at ocgov.com.

www.lakeforestca.gov/pet_of_the_week



Don't Pollute the Gutter!

"Polluting the gutter" may sound like a contradictory phrase, but it's not! Anything that ends up in the gutter goes through the City's storm drain system and directly to the local creeks, lakes and eventually the ocean *without* any treatment.

There's a big difference between the storm drain system and the sewer system. The sewer system transports water from sinks and toilets in homes and businesses to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and filtered. The storm drain system collects and carries rainwater in streets and gutters away from urban areas as quickly as possible, bypassing a filtering facility, to avoid any threat to life and property from flooding.

Anything discharged into the gutter enters the storm drain system and can become a pollutant that will eventually discharge to local environmental resources such as creeks, lakes, and beaches. Some of the most common pollutants generated from everyday urban activities include litter, oil, dirt, food, pet waste, debris, paint, and cleaning products. These pollutants can have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreational use, and wildlife.

We often take for granted some of the most common causes of pollution. Here are two easy ways to make a difference:

- Do not wash trash containers in the gutter area or allow the wastewater to enter the storm drain system. Instead, wash your trash container on the lawn or use a local cleaning service that retains its wastewater while sanitizing the container. For additional information, you can also contact Waste Management of Orange County at (949) 642-1191.
- Never wash anything into the street or gutter. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash. Use household cleaners, chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers only as needed and according to the label. Dispose of oil properly and use drip pans or absorbent. Never allow pool backwash water into the gutter or storm drain. When working on your home, speak to the contractors and remind them that nothing is allowed to get into the street, gutter or storm drain system – it's illegal and very harmful to our environmental resources.



**If you suspect any water pollution,
please contact the Public Works Department
at (949) 461-3480 or the 24-Hour Water
Pollution Hotline at (877) 89-SPILL**

Recreation/Events Calendar

Winter 2012 (January/February 2012)

JANUARY

SnowFest 2012 28



Come out and play in the snow at SnowFest 2012! Beauty and the Beast will be on hand to celebrate with us, as well as guests from a galaxy far, far away. Event includes a free snow play area for kids 5 and under, and numerous special attractions. For updated info, visit [facebook.com/LakeForestEvents](https://www.facebook.com/LakeForestEvents) or call 461-3459.

Pre-registration for this activity is required.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Pittsford Park
(21701 Pittsford Dr)
\$5 per sledder

FEBRUARY

Fourth of July Parade Committee 6

Lake Forest Community Center
(25550 Commercentre Dr.)

For more info on the 4th of July Parade Committee, contact Ron Rivera by email at rrivera@lakeforestca.gov or call 461-3457



Fourth of July Logo Design Contest – Entry Due Date 6

5 p.m.
Submit High Resolution jpeg entries to Ron Rivera by email rrivera@lakeforestca.gov, or call 461-3457



Band Nights at the Skatepark 10

6 - 10 p.m.

Etnies Skatepark of Lake Forest
(20028 Lake Forest Dr.)

\$5 entry fee per person; pay at the door



Snow Summit Teen Excursion (Open to ages 12-18) 17

6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Departure Location:
Lake Forest City Hall
(25550 Commercentre Dr.)

Pre-registration for this activity is required.



For more info on any of the above activities, call Community Services at 461-3450.



Register for Spring 2012 programs beginning Tuesday, February 14 at 8 a.m.

See inside Spring Leisure Times for a complete listing of classes and programs.



City of Lake Forest
25550 Commercentre Drive
Lake Forest, CA 92630

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Important City Telephone Numbers



OC Animal Care 249-5160
Building Division 461-3470
Building Inspection 461-3468
City Clerk 461-3420
City Council 461-3420
City Manager's Office . . . 461-3410
Code Enforcement 461-3474
Community
Policing Center 461-3530
Etnies Skatepark 916-5870
Graffiti Hotline 461-3583
Planning 461-3491
Public Works 461-3480
Recreation 461-3450
Redevelopment 461-3567

IMPORTANT CITY WEBSITES

City
www.lakeforestca.gov
Economic Development
www.lakeforestbusiness.com
Lake Forest Redevelopment Agency
www.thearbor.info
Etnies Skatepark of Lake Forest
www.etniesskateparkoflakeforest.com



The Leaflet is published by the City of Lake Forest and is distributed as a public service to the homes and businesses of the city. The City of Lake Forest welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions regarding The Leaflet. Please call or write:

Editor, The Leaflet
City of Lake Forest
25550 Commercentre Drive
Lake Forest, CA 92630
461-3400



www.lakeforestca.gov

"EXPAND THE FOREST"

The Expand the Forest program allows members of the community to dedicate trees in memory of departed loved ones or to commemorate special occasions while encouraging the expansion of our urban forest. Trees are \$70 and are planted and maintained by the City. There are eight different species of approved trees which may be planted in almost any public property location, including City parks and green belts.

For more information, please call the Public Works Department at 461-3480.



SPONSORS	TREE SPECIES	LOCATION	DEDICATION
Wife: Joan, Son: Eric VanEyke, Daughters: Debora Sanchez, Jessica Andrews, and Granddaughter: Raya Ohls	Sycamore	Rancho Serrano Park	In Loving Memory of Edwin Van Eyke
The Glebocki Family	Tristania	Rancho Serrano Park	In Memory of Patricia L. Simon
Brooklyn's Family and Loved Ones	Magnolia	Foothill Ranch Community Park	In Memory of Brooklyn Elizabeth Chavez – June 10, 2009
Andrew and Kathryn Tsang	Tristania	Foothill Ranch Community Park	In Loving Memory of Joseph Lee Krempel
Andrew and Kathryn Tsang	Magnolia	Foothill Ranch Community Park	In Loving Memory of Rey Gaborné (Eva)
Boland, Boone, Bosley, Chavez, Davilla, Franco, Marris, Muse, Perry, Phillips, Shelton and Young Families	Sycamore	Foothill Ranch Community Park	In Loving Memory of Linda Dundas
Boland, Boone, Bosley, Chavez, Davilla, Franco, Marris, Muse, Perry, Phillips, Shelton and Young Families	Sycamore	Foothill Ranch Community Park	In Loving Memory of Rogelio V. Chavez
Boland, Boone, Bosley, Chavez, Davilla, Franco, Marris, Muse, Perry, Phillips, Shelton and Young Families	Sycamore	Foothill Ranch Community Park	In Loving Memory of Alexander G. Franco
The Imler Family	Magnolia	Foothill Ranch Community Park	In Loving Memory of Myrna Lorena Sargent, Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Friend
Virginia M. Fabian	Tristania	Foothill Ranch Community Park	In Loving Memory of My Dear Father, From Shamima Hameed
John and Lynn Kearns	Magnolia	Concourse Park	Brett Robertson
Cathy Bass, Wes Halen, Jon Rall, Eileen Rubin, Randy "Debbie" Witbracht, Erica Malmquist	Liquid Amber	Borrego Overlook Park	Doug Lishka
Marcelo Lenz	Magnolia	Rancho Serrano Park	In Memory of Rute Rosental